



WESTERN  
GOVERNORS'  
ASSOCIATION

Brian Schweitzer  
Governor of Montana  
Chairman

C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho  
Vice Chairman

Pam O. Inmann  
Executive Director

Headquarters:  
1600 Broadway  
Suite 1700  
Denver, CO 80202  
  
303-623-9378  
Fax 303-534-7309

Washington, D.C. Office:  
400 N. Capitol Street, N.W.  
Suite 388  
Washington, D.C. 20001

202-624-5402  
Fax 202-624-7707

[www.westgov.org](http://www.westgov.org)

October 12, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu  
Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

**Subject:** American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Smart Grid  
Investment Grant – (DE-FOA-0000058)

Dear Mr. Secretary,

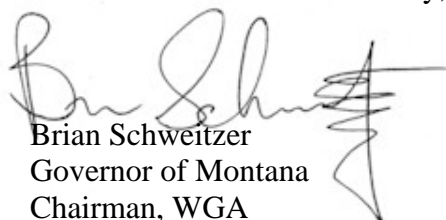
The purpose of this letter is to express the Western Governors' support for the Western Electricity Coordinating Council's (WECC) project proposal — submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on August 6, 2009 under solicitation DE-FOA-0000058 — the Western Interconnection Synchrophasor Program. This proposal will achieve the ambitious policy goals set by the DOE and Congress to improve grid reliability and flexibility and integrate renewable resources.

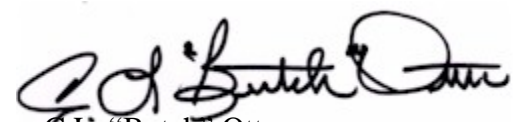
WECC's proposal will deploy technologies across the Western Interconnection that significantly improve real-time monitoring and control of the western electric power system to reduce the risk of blackouts, speed recovery from outages and increase the region's ability to transmit significant amounts of renewable generation to consumers. The technologies will be interoperable and secure from cyber attacks.

The number of partners involved in the operation of the bulk power system in the West is expected to increase exponentially as smart grid technologies are adopted. The proposed West-wide deployment of synchrophasor infrastructure and applications would provide a solid transmission foundation for future smart grid innovations, complementing the nation's electric grid modernization efforts. We join the North American Electric Reliability Corporation in their support of the WECC proposal.

WECC's proposed interconnection-wide project will significantly further the goal of providing reliable power and expanding the West's ability to transmit and integrate large amounts renewable generation. We urge the full funding of this project to assure the reliability of the bulk power system in the West.

Sincerely,

  
Brian Schweitzer  
Governor of Montana  
Chairman, WGA

  
C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho  
Vice Chairman, WGA